

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently amended) A posterior vertebral support assembly, comprising:
an interspinous wedge configured to engage with and be inserted between the spinous processes of two vertebrae, wherein the wedge includes at least one elastically deformable zone;

two compressive lateral elements disposed on either side of the wedge in a longitudinal direction, wherein the compressive lateral elements are deformable between releasing positions and compressive positions; and

two lateral transmission elements disposed between the compressive lateral elements and the wedge, and configured to selectively press against the wedge in the transverse direction near the elastically deformable zone.

15. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 14 wherein the zone has a limit of compressibility in the transverse direction, and wherein the limit is reached at a predetermined tilted position.

16. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 14 wherein the compressive lateral elements have a limit of deformation in the transverse direction, and wherein the limit is reached at a predetermined tilted position.

17. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 14 wherein the compressive lateral elements are elastically deformable between the releasing and compressive positions.

18. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 14 wherein the compressive lateral elements are elastically deformable generally along an axis of the spine.

19. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 14 wherein the compressive lateral elements are independent of one another, and wherein each element is connected to a treated vertebra with one end and to another treated vertebra by its other end.

20. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 14 wherein the compressive lateral elements include eyelets or anchorage pieces designed to receive pedicular anchorage screws.

21. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 14 wherein the compressive lateral elements are adapted to pass beneath the laminae of the overlying vertebra.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 14 wherein the lateral transmission elements are small bars disposed between the compressive lateral elements and the wedge.

25. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 14 wherein the lateral transmission elements are bosses disposed between the compressive lateral elements and the wedge.

26. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 14 wherein the compressive lateral elements are deformable between releasing positions, which they occupy when the vertebrae are in lordosis or when the spinal column is extended, and wherein they are relatively spaced apart from the wedge in the transverse direction, and compressive positions, which they occupy when the spinal column is in flexion, and wherein they are relatively close to the wedge in the transverse direction.

27. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 26 wherein the two lateral transmission elements are disposed in a manner to press against the wedge in the transverse direction when the compressive lateral elements are displaced in said compressive position.

28. (Currently amended) A posterior vertebral support assembly, comprising:
an interspinous wedge configured to be inserted between the spinous processes of two vertebrae, wherein the wedge includes at least one elastically deformable zone;
a circular strap engageable round at least two spinous processes and the wedge, the strap forming a first and a second compressive lateral element disposed on opposing lateral sides of the wedge, the first and second compressive lateral elements being configured to maintain the position of the wedge; and
first and second lateral transmission elements disposed respectively between the first compressive lateral element and the wedge and the second compressive lateral element and the wedge, the first and second lateral transmission elements being adapted to press against the wedge in the transverse direction in response to forces applied by the first and second compressive lateral elements.

29. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 28 wherein the first and second lateral transmission elements are each a small bar disposed between the compressive lateral elements and the wedge.

30. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 28 wherein the first and second lateral transmission elements are each bosses disposed between the compressive lateral elements and the wedge.

31. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 30 wherein the bosses are integral with the wedge.

32. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 30 wherein the wedge includes recesses designed to receive the bosses.

33. (Previously presented) The support assembly of claim 28 wherein the wedge comprises two curved recesses with each recess bounded by two lugs, the lugs and recesses adapted to broadly envelope the spinous processes.

34. (New) A posterior vertebral support assembly, comprising:
an interspinous wedge configured to be inserted between the spinous processes of two adjacent vertebrae, the interspinous wedge having a zone of an elastically deformable material disposed for placement between the spinous processes of the vertebrae;
two compressive lateral elements configured to be placed on either side of the wedge and extending in a longitudinal direction, the compressive lateral elements being deformable between a releasing position and a compressive position, wherein when in the releasing position, the compressive lateral elements are disposed relatively spaced apart from the wedge in a transverse direction, and wherein when in the compressive position, the compressive lateral elements are disposed relatively close to the wedge in the transverse direction; and
two lateral transmission elements disposed between the compressive lateral elements and the wedge, the lateral transmission elements being configured such that when the compressive lateral elements are displaced in said compressive position, the lateral transmission elements press against the zone of the wedge in the transverse direction,
wherein the lateral transmission elements are configured to have a limit of deformation in the transverse direction, this limit of deformation being reached when the treated vertebrae attain a predetermined tilted position.